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# Giant Pyroelectric Energy Harvesting and Negative Electrocaloric Effect in Multilayered Nanostructures

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**Abstract:**

This work examines the potential of  $\text{PbZr}_{0.53}\text{Ti}_{0.47}\text{O}_3/\text{CoFe}_2\text{O}_4$  (PZT/CFO) multi-layered nanostructures (MLNs) for giant electrocaloric effect (ECE) and pyroelectric energy harvesting. Unlike the conventional ECE, the presented MLNs is governed by the dynamic magneto-electric coupling (MEC) and can be tuned by the arrangement of the various ferroic layers. The ECE in alternate layers of PZT and CFO in a stack of three (L3), five (L5) and nine (L9) alternating PZT and CFO layers are investigated. An ECE temperature change of 52.3 K, 32.4 K and 25.0? K is predicted in these MLNs respectively. Intriguingly, all configurations exhibit a negative ECE which has a high magnitude in comparison with previously reported giant negative ECE ( $|\Delta T|=6.2$  K)<sup>1, 2</sup>. In addition, the maximum indirect pyroelectric energy harvesting obtained from these layers using a modified Olsen cycle is four times higher than the highest reported pyroelectric energy density of 11549  $\text{kJm}^{-3}\text{cycle}^{-1}$ <sup>3, 4</sup>. This increase is attributed to the cumulative effect of multiple layers that induce an enhancement in the overall polarization (1.5 times of lead zirconate titanate) and leads to abrupt polarization changes with a temperature fluctuation. The present study also sheds light on materials selection and the thermodynamic processes involved in the ECE. It is concluded that the refrigeration obtained from reversed Olsen cycle is a combined effect of an isothermal entropy as well as adiabatic temperature change.

Keywords: giant, negative electrocaloric effect, pyroelectric energy harvesting, thermodynamic cycle, materials selection

## 1. Introduction

Recent advancements in nanotechnology have significantly raised the demand for small scale refrigeration and energy conversion technologies. The performance of these technologies must be sufficiently high for heat extraction or recycling waste energy in integrated circuits <sup>5</sup>, computer memories <sup>6</sup> and medical equipment <sup>7</sup>. Unfortunately the conventional vapor-cycle technologies are unable to meet these demands as they involve bulky components, such as compressors. Therefore, these emerging demands have led researchers to consider novel energy conversion systems. Among these, the electrocaloric effect (ECE) <sup>1, 8-12</sup> and pyroelectric effect <sup>13-16</sup> based mechanisms have been considered alternatives for these applications. The electrocaloric effect is believed to be first reported in 1930 <sup>17</sup> and was later explored by US and Japan during World War-II <sup>11</sup>. Thereafter, the effect was not given much importance until it was observed near ferroelectric transitions of potassium dihydrogen phosphate in 1950 <sup>18</sup>. This gave birth to the debate about the possibility of ECE in hydrogen-bonded materials. Later in 1960s, with the discovery of ceramic perovskites <sup>19, 20</sup>, the effect was detected at room temperature and above. Research escalated in this field after the work of Mischenko *et. al.* <sup>21</sup> who reported a large ECE temperature change ( $\Delta T$ ) of 12 K at comparatively large values of applied electric field ( $|\Delta E|=480 \text{ kVcm}^{-1}$ ) in  $\text{PbZr}_{0.95}\text{Ti}_{0.5}\text{O}_3$  near (495 K) its Curie temperature. The study was based on indirect mode of measurement using Maxwell relations which was first proposed by Thacher <sup>20</sup>. It is suggested that an entropy change ( $\Delta S$ ) can be calculated as an integral of change in polarization ( $P$ ) with respect to temperature ( $T$ ) over the applied electric field ( $E$ ), namely,

$$\Delta S = - \int_E^{E_f} \left( \frac{\partial P}{\partial T} \right)_E dE \quad (1)$$

Further, the corresponding ECE temperature ( $\Delta T$ ) can be determined from,

$$\Delta T = -\frac{T}{\rho C} \int_E^{E_f} \left( \frac{\partial P}{\partial T} \right)_E dE \quad (2)$$

Where,  $\rho$  and  $C$  are the density and the specific heat capacity of the material respectively. This method soon earned popularity primarily because of the convenience offered in measuring the ECE in thin films. Prior to this approach the ‘giant’ ECE temperature changes was difficult to accurately measure in thin films as the measurements were prone to influence by probe-based techniques. However, the indirect method is subjected to a few limitations such as..... which can be studied in detail elsewhere<sup>10</sup>. Table 1 provides the comparison for ECE in selected compositions with their corresponding operating conditions and the thermodynamic attributes, such as the applied electric field and the obtained temperature and entropy changes. It is to be noted that the ECE works as a reverse pyroelectric effect, which produces an electric charge on exposure to a thermal change.

Pyroelectric energy conversion exploits the fundamental idea of generating an electric charge due to change in remanent or/and saturation polarization as a result of thermal fluctuations. This change in polarization ( $P_i$ ) with temperature change ( $\Delta T$ ) is given as<sup>22</sup>:

$$P_i = p_i \Delta T \quad (4)$$

Where,  $p_i$  is the pyroelectric coefficient. Further, the induced short circuit current ( $I_P$ ) for a rate of temperature change ( $dT/dt$ ) can be obtained by <sup>22, 23</sup>

$$I_P = A p_c \frac{dT}{dt} \quad (5)$$

where  $A$  and  $p_c$  are the surface area and the component of pyroelectric coefficient in the perpendicular direction of the electrodes, respectively. The degree of energy conversion can be significantly enhanced by adopting an appropriate operation cycle. In this context, Mohammadi

and Khodayari stressed the use of an Ericsson cycle <sup>24</sup>. In addition, there exists a well-known variant of the Ericson cycle, named as the “Olsen cycle” <sup>25-27</sup>. The advantage of this cycle is that it operates under unipolar electric fields, rather than bipolar electric fields used in the conventional Ericson cycle and has a comparatively reduced hysteresis loss and enhanced energy conversion. However, it is to be noted that the energy harvested using the Olsen cycle is not merely contributed by the pyroelectric effect but is also a result of the change in electrical energy storage capacity of the material with temperature. Interestingly, it has been reported that the Olsen cycle is capable of providing an energy density three orders in magnitude higher than that of obtained using the conventional pyroelectric effect <sup>28</sup>. The claim has later been verified for many well-known compositions by Olsen *et. al.* <sup>25-27, 29-33</sup>. Moreover, recent studies in this direction also strongly support their claim <sup>28, 34-43</sup> and suggests that the Olsen cycle has particular advantages for pyroelectric based harvesting. Therefore, both the Olsen cycle and ECE are being extensively explored for ‘giant’ energy conversion applications. Since both methods work on the same principle, but in opposite directions, the materials requirements in order to achieve enhanced ECE or pyroelectric energy harvesting are similar.

## **2. Materials Selection for Giant Energy Harvesting**

It is of importance to select the appropriate materials for a particular application, which requires a basic knowledge of the application domain and materials selection methodologies. Researchers have been continuously working in the direction of materials selection <sup>44-50</sup> and energy harvesting <sup>5, 34-39, 51, 52</sup>; and have determined the characteristics that a material should possess for high energy conversion. The material should have a large change in polarization with respect to

the change in temperature ( $\partial P/\partial T$ ), which leads to a high pyroelectric coefficient. Moreover, the Curie temperature, dielectric anomalies, phase transitions or instantaneous switching, creation/destruction of crystal domains should generally fall within the operating temperature range. In addition, the materials should exhibit low losses, high breakdown strength and have a large change in polarization with variation in applied electric field. Importantly, the use of thin films permits the application of high electric fields at relatively low application voltages but the electrical conductivity, which increases with a decrease in thickness, should also be sufficiently low<sup>9</sup>. Due to this complex combination of properties,  $\text{PbZr}_{0.53}\text{Ti}_{0.47}\text{O}_3/\text{CoFe}_2\text{O}_4$  (PZT/CFO) layered nanostructures have been considered in the present study for both pyroelectric energy harvesting and ECE.

### 3. Layered Nanostructured Materials

$\text{PbZr}_{0.53}\text{Ti}_{0.47}\text{O}_3/\text{CoFe}_2\text{O}_4$  (PZT/CFO) layered nanostructures were first reported by us in 2009<sup>53</sup>. Later we also investigated the temperature-dependent polarization and dielectric behavior of these layered nanostructures<sup>54</sup>. Multilayered nanostructures structures (MLNs) of three (L3), five (L5) and nine (L9) alternating layers of PZT and CFO (note the arrangements shown in inset of Figure 1 (b), (c) and (d) for L3, L5 and L9, respectively) thin films were deposited on  $\text{La}_{0.5}\text{Sr}_{0.5}\text{CoO}_3$  (LSCO) coated (100) MgO substrate using pulsed laser deposition (excimer laser; laser energy density of  $1.5 \text{ J cm}^{-2}$ ; 10 Hz of repetition rate). The depositions were carried out with individual PZT and CFO targets that were initially prepared by a solid state route. Finally, the prepared MLNs were annealed and physical characterization was carried out using Raman and X-ray diffraction (XRD), see Figure S, and transmission electron microscopy (TEM); see Figure

S2. A more detailed description of the procedures and results can be found in our previous reports<sup>53, 54</sup>. These structures were found to demonstrate excellent fatigue properties with a nominal (less than 20 %) deviation in polarization over  $10^8$  cycles; see Figure S3. Further, dielectric measurements were carried out with sputtered Pt top electrodes and pyroelectric properties were studied in the temperature span of 100K to 300K. The temperature dependent  $P$ - $E$  loops obtained are highlighted in Figure 1 (a) for pure PZT (grown under same conditions)<sup>53, 54</sup> (b) L3 (c) L5 (d) L9 respectively. Intriguingly for ECE and pyroelectric harvesting applications, it is found that the polarizations of all the MLNs fall with a decrease in temperature and are completely recoverable with reheating. Normally, pure PZT films do not show any such behavior and simply result in a broadening of the loop with a decrease in temperature<sup>5, 53, 54</sup>.

Another important observation is that these structures show an unusual shift in ferroelectric hysteresis loops (note the shift in loop with fall in temperature Figure 1 (b), (c) and (d)). In general, the saturation polarization decreases with an increase in temperature; such a behavior is classified as ‘Thermal fluctuations-1 (TF-1)’ behavior. In the present case the saturation polarization increases with an increase in temperature, termed ‘Thermal fluctuations-2 (TF-2)’ behavior where the hysteresis loop tends to become linear at low temperatures. This behavior is rare, but is observed in  $(\text{Bi}_{0.5}\text{Na}_{0.5})\text{TiO}_3$ ,  $(\text{Bi}_{0.5}\text{K}_{0.5})\text{TiO}_3$  and  $(\text{Bi}_{0.5}\text{Li}_{0.5})\text{TiO}_3$  based compositions such as  $0.88\text{Bi}_{0.5}\text{Na}_{0.5}\text{TiO}_3\text{-}0.02\text{SrTiO}_3\text{-}0.1\text{Bi}_{0.5}\text{Li}_{0.5}\text{TiO}_3$  (BNT-ST-BLT)<sup>55</sup> and  $(\text{Bi}_{0.5}\text{Na}_{0.5})_{0.915}\text{-(Bi}_{0.5}\text{K}_{0.5})_{0.05}\text{Ba}_{0.02}\text{Sr}_{0.015}\text{TiO}_3$ <sup>56</sup>. However, it is also possible to have both kinds of behavior in the same composition but in different temperature ranges. The phenomena in the present case is attributed to dominance of dynamic magnetoelectric coupling (MEC) at lower temperatures<sup>53, 54</sup>. Once this temperature dependent pyroelectric behavior is identified it becomes convenient to



decide the possible cycle on which a device can be fabricated in order to achieve improved performance.

#### 4. Olsen Cycle

The Olsen cycle was initially proposed in the 1980s for the commonly observed TF-1 ferroelectrics, since TF-2 compositions were rarely observed before 2008. Later (2014), the modified version of the Olsen cycle was proposed by us for TF-2 compositions<sup>39</sup>. Consequently, the cycle is generalized for all materials exhibiting a change in polarization with a change in temperature<sup>39</sup>. The generalized cycle states that the material should initially be polarized under a unipolar applied electric field at the lower temperature ( $T_L$ ) and then exposed to a heat source isoelectrically ( $E_H$ ). This leads to a polarization change (a decrease for TF-1 and increase for TF-2) that can be simultaneously converted into an electrical output. Subsequently, the material is depolarized (under a unipolar applied electric field) at a constant higher temperature ( $T_H$ ) followed by an isoelectric ( $E_L$ ) cooling. This again provides an output electrical impulse in the form of harvested electrical energy. Figure 2 (a) provides a schematic explanation of a typical Olsen cycle for a TF-2 material and the corresponding  $T$ - $S$  diagram is shown in Figure 2 (b). This cycle consists of two isoelectric ( $B$ - $C$  and  $D$ - $A$ ) and two isothermal processes ( $A$ - $B$  and  $C$ - $D$ ) as discussed below:

**Process  $A$ - $B$  (Isothermal polarization):** The material is polarized from  $P_A$  to  $P_B$  by using a unipolar electric field ( $E_L$  to  $E_H$ ) at a constant temperature  $T_L$  (lower temperature). This simultaneously causes an isothermal entropy reduction from  $S_A$  to  $S_B$ .

**Process B-C (Isoelectric heating):** In this stage the temperature of the material is raised (from  $T_L$  to  $T_H$ ) or the heat is absorbed by the material isoelectrically causing a polarization rise ( $P_B$  to  $P_C$ ) and a corresponding entropy drop from  $S_B$  to  $S_C$ .

**Process C-D (Isothermal depolarization):** The material is depolarized isothermally at a constant higher temperature ( $T_H$ ).

**Process D-A (Isoelectric cooling):** Finally, the cycle is completed by cooling the material at a constant lower electric field ( $E_L$ ) so as to bring the system to its initial state ( $T_L$ ,  $P_A$  and  $S_A$ ).

The area enclosed ( $A-D-C-B$ ) by the complete cycle on a corresponding  $P-E$  curve gives the net harvested output electrical energy density ( $N_D$ ) per liter per unit cycle<sup>32, 40</sup>.

$$N_D = \oint E.dP \quad (6)$$

A careful examination of the  $T-S$  diagram for Olsen cycle suggests that if the cycle is operated in a reverse direction it will result in refrigeration<sup>39</sup>.

## 7. Reversed Olsen Cycle for Refrigeration

Recently, it was proposed that the Olsen cycle operated in the reverse direction can be used for refrigeration<sup>39</sup>. The cycle again consists of two isoelectric ( $B-C$  and  $D-A$ ) and two isothermal processes ( $A-B$  and  $C-D$ ). Figure 3 (a) and (b) shows the  $P-E$  and  $T-S$  diagrams for the working of a reversed Olsen cycle. The cycle is comprised of the following steps:

**Process A-B (Isothermal polarization):** The material is polarized from  $P_A$  to  $P_B$  using a unipolar electric field ( $E_L$  to  $E_H$ ) at a constant temperature  $T_H$  (higher temperature). This

simultaneously causes an isothermal entropy reduction from  $S_A$  to  $S_B$ . It is to be noted that  $S_B$  corresponds to the state of least saturation entropy of the system for the temperature  $T_H$ .

**Process B-C (Isoelectric refrigeration):** As the material has already achieved the state of least entropy or the lower saturation limit of the entropy, it undergoes a temperature change ( $T_H$  to  $T_L$ ) in order to have a higher entropy state. Therefore, the material releases heat and cools itself to achieve a higher entropy state ( $S_C$ ) at a constant electric field ( $E_H$ ). This process also causes a decrease in polarization ( $P_B$  to  $P_C$ ).

**Process C-D (Isothermal depolarization):** In this process the material is further depolarized isothermally at a constant lower temperature ( $T_L$ ).

**Process D-A (Isoelectric heat exchange):** In order to complete the cycle the material is allowed to exchange heat with the surroundings at a constant lower electric field ( $E_L$ ). This step provides an opportunity for the material to attain its original state ( $T_L$ ,  $P_A$  and  $S_A$ ) by absorbing heat from the surroundings. Depending on the materials behavior it may absorb heat itself or may be forced to do so in the presence of an external heat source.

Interestingly, the material cools during process B-C while gains heat during process D-A (note the heating and cooling of material in Figure 4). Normally, the surroundings are heated in process B-C and refrigerated in process D-A (note the heating and cooling of surroundings in Figure 3). Therefore, depending on the application requirements this cycle can be used to cool the material or the surroundings; it is important to note that the effect of producing thermal changes under varying applied electric fields is also known as ECE <sup>11</sup>. The  $T$ - $S$  diagram (Figure 3(b)) for the reversed Olsen cycle also confirms that the cycle is working in an identical way to that of ECE in a three stage thermodynamic model (isoelectric, isothermal and adiabatic processes) <sup>9</sup>.

## 8. Results and Discussion

Figure 3 and 4 clearly indicates that the processes  $A-B$  and  $C-D$  are essentially isothermal while the processes  $B-C$  and  $D-A$  are isoelectric. This makes it is difficult to comment about the adiabatic process involved in the cycle which is often used to explain ECE. This can be better understood on the basis of the concept of entropy. The net entropy ( $S_N$ ) of the system can be written as the sum of entropy due to polarization ( $S_{E,T}$ -function of both temperature and electric field) and entropy due to lattice parameters and electron contribution ( $S_T$ -function of temperature only). The net entropy ( $\Delta S_N$ ) change of the system can be written as

$$\Delta S_N = \Delta S_{E,T} + \Delta S_T \quad (7)$$

Eq.7 clearly suggests that a change in temperature will influence all entropies of the system while a change in applied electric field will merely influence the entropy of polarization. Based on this concept we can understand that during isothermal polarization (process  $A-B$ ) the  $\Delta S_{E,T}$  decreases and the overall entropy of the system should fall from  $S_A$  to  $S_B$ . Consequently, the system must release heat thereby leading to cooling of the material; this is often attributed as an adiabatic ECE<sup>9</sup>. At the same time there is no change in  $\Delta S_T$  since it is independent of applied electric field and hence the process becomes partially adiabatic. Finally, process  $A-B$  brings the material to the state of least entropy ( $S_B$ ) (see figure 4 and 3 (b)). At this stage the material is kept at a constant electric field and hence the entropy of polarization ( $\Delta S_{E,T}$ ) does not change. This means the process should be adiabatic. However, the material attempts to achieve a state of higher entropy due to lattice strains developed during high temperature polarization. As a result, the net entropy ( $\Delta S_N$ ) rises in process  $B-C$ . If the  $\Delta S_N$  rises ( $S_B$  to  $S_C$ ) under adiabatic conditions

the system has to undergo a temperature change ( $T_H$  to  $T_L$ ), this again leads to cooling of the material (and heat gained by the surroundings); see figure 4. In addition, the temperature change also causes  $\Delta S_T$  to fluctuate which violates the condition of an adiabatic process. This makes it difficult to comment about the overall nature of two kinds of cooling involved and therefore both the processes (corresponding to  $\Delta S_T$  and  $\Delta S_{ET}$ ) are collectively considered as partially adiabatic and are accounted for an ECE. Here, it is important to note that the cooling obtained in both the processes ( $A-B$  and  $B-C$ ) can be attributed as an ECE. The cooling in process  $A-B$  is universal and can be found in any material that exhibits an electric field dependent polarization change while the latter is dependent on materials' structure and therefore an intrinsic property of a material. Thus it can be concluded that the reversed Olsen cycle takes advantage of the latter type of cooling process for enhanced performance and is a potential mechanism for some materials to exhibit a 'giant' ECE. This suggests that the refrigeration obtained from reversed Olsen cycle is a combined effect of an isothermal entropy and an adiabatic temperature change. The same argument in a reverse manner makes the Olsen cycle to perform better with regards to the pyroelectric effect.

As discussed earlier, the present study considers PZT/CFO MLNs since they satisfy most of the essential characteristics required for giant ECE and colossal energy harvesting density using the Olsen cycle. These MLNs of L3, L5 and L9 are investigated for the temperature spectrum of 100 K to 300 K and applied electric field of 0-400 kVcm<sup>-1</sup>. The indirect ECE calculations are carried out using Maxwell relations (equations 1 and 2). In this context, experimental values obtained from the upper branches (polarization variation from remanent to saturation polarization in the first quadrant) of  $P-E$  isotherms are used to plot isoelectric  $P-T$  curves (Figure 5). Here, a sharp increase in the polarization is observed as the temperature increases to approximately 200 K.

Such a phenomenon in multilayered structures is often attributed to structural transitions or space charge effects at surface/interface; but this is not thought to be the case for the MLNs as verified by the nominal (less than 20 %) change in polarization over large time span of fatigue test (tested over  $10^8$  cycles<sup>54</sup>). Therefore, the main reason for this behavior is the electrical dominance of dynamic magnetoelectric coupling (MEC)<sup>53, 54</sup>. MEC is referred to switching among more than one ferroic order parameters leading to rise in a certain physical property such as ferroelectric/electric control of magnetization or vice-versa<sup>57</sup>. The effect has been investigated using Ginzburg–Landau theory and it is found that the MEC in these MLNs is stronger at lower temperatures and becomes weak at higher temperatures<sup>54</sup>. At elevated temperature ( $>200$  K), polarization enhancement is relatively low due to weak MEC. A significant increase in magnetization below 200 K drastically switches the polarization due to a strong magneto-electric coupling which in turn flips the polarization and hence produces large ECE effects<sup>54</sup>. This reason makes the investigation of ECE intriguing in the MEC governed flip in polarization. Furthermore, calculations of the entropy ( $\Delta S$ ) and temperature ( $\Delta T$ ) change are performed using a standard procedure<sup>58</sup> that ensures the reliability of the Maxwell measurements<sup>2</sup> using the  $P$ - $T$  plots illustrated in Figure 5. The calculations are performed for  $\rho=8.3 \text{ gcm}^{-3}$  and  $C=330 \text{ JK}^{-1}\text{kg}^{-1}$  (assumed constant with variation in temperature)<sup>59</sup>. Figure 6 (a), (b) and (c) shows the calculated entropy-temperature ( $\Delta S$ - $T$ ) results while ECE temperature change-temperature ( $\Delta T$ - $T$ ) curves are revealed in Figure 6 (d), (e) and (f) for L3, L5 and L9, respectively; the values are calculated indirectly using Eqns. 1 and 2. All structures are found to illustrate a negative ECE where L3 accommodates the maximum temperature change of 52.2 K ( $|\Delta S|=94.23 \text{ Jkg}^{-1}\text{K}^{-1}$ ;  $|\Delta E|=370 \text{ kVcm}^{-1}$ ) at 182 K followed by L5 with  $|\Delta T|=30.41 \text{ K}$  ( $|\Delta S|=53.88 \text{ Jkg}^{-1}\text{K}^{-1}$   $|\Delta E|=370 \text{ kVcm}^{-1}$ ) at 186 K. To best of the author's knowledge the discovered indirect ECE in MLNs of PLZT/CFO is

the maximum ECE reported to date (see Table 1). The table suggests that these MLNs also have a very high  $|\Delta T/\Delta E|$  ratio, which is often considered a criterion for comparing the ECE performance of different materials. Another important observation is the decrease in ECE with layer addition due to the lowering of the net polarization. However, at the same time the temperature corresponding to maximum ECE is also increased (205 K: L9; 186 K: L5; 182 K: L3) with increase in layers. This suggests that the ECE can be tuned by using multi-layers and the arrangement of the layers. The exceptional ECE results also make these MLNs appealing for the complementary application of pyroelectric energy harvesting.

All three MLNs are analyzed for energy harvesting using the Olsen cycle. Figure 6 (a) shows the variation of energy density for all three configurations (using eq. 6). These are found to have a maximum energy density of 23011 (L9), 35278 (L5) and 47372 (L9)  $\text{kJm}^{-3}$  respectively. The estimated energy densities obtained are higher than any existing ‘giant’ value reported to date. Table 2 shows a comparison of energy density and corresponding conditions for selected compositions reported for giant energy harvesting using the Olsen cycle. The reason for this large increase is due to dynamic ME effects in these structures (see the difference in polarization of pure PZT and MLNs (Figure 1)) that cause an increase in the polarization. Additionally, Figure 6 (b), (c) and (d) shows information regarding the energy harvesting behavior as a function of  $E_H$  with  $E_L$  and  $T_L$  kept constant at 0  $\text{kVcm}^{-1}$  and 100 K respectively. The trend illustrate that the energy density increases with a broadening of the temperature range and electric field. However, the dominant magnetism at low temperatures may result in a deviation from the presented energy densities. The change is significantly low due to nominal energy losses (due to increased magnetic polarization) while polarizing at 100 K<sup>53, 54</sup>. Though the present case has very low magnetic losses, there may be cases of large magnetic deviation in

some MLNs. Such cases can be dealt by simultaneously coupling the Olsen cycle and its similar counterpart in the magnetic domain and we are exploring such possibilities. In summary, this study demonstrates the competence of MLNs for EC refrigeration and pyroelectric energy harvesting and highlights new opportunities and directions in the domain of solid state energy conversion.

## Conclusions

PZT/CFO multilayered nanostructures (MLNs) are revealed to provide exceptional potential for electrocaloric refrigeration and pyroelectric energy harvesting. From the indirect mode of measurement, these structures are found to illustrate giant negative ECE (L3:  $|\Delta T|=52.2$  K; L5:  $|\Delta T|=30.41$  K; L9:  $|\Delta T|=25$  K at  $T=182, 186$  and  $205$  K respectively), the largest reported to date. At the same time a shift in the temperature corresponding to maximum ECE can also be noticed ( $205$  K: L9;  $186$  K: L5;  $182$  K: L3) with increase in number of layers. This suggests that the ECE can be tuned by using multi-layers and the arrangement of the layers. Additionally, the estimated energy harvesting potential of these layers is also found to be large (L3:  $47372 \text{ kJm}^{-3}\text{cycle}^{-1}$ ; L5:  $35278 \text{ kJm}^{-3}\text{cycle}^{-1}$ ; L3:  $23011 \text{ kJm}^{-3}\text{cycle}^{-1}$ ) and is higher than the maximum reported values to date. The present study also helps in understanding the three stage (adiabatic, isothermal and isoelectric) thermodynamic processes involved in ECE for such materials.

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**Table 1:** Comparison of ECE in selected compositions.

Material	T [K]	$\Delta T$ [K]	$\Delta S$	$\Delta E$ [kJcm <sup>-1</sup> ]	$ \Delta T / \Delta E $ [KcmkV <sup>-1</sup> ]	Reference
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	[Jkg <sup>-1</sup> K <sup>-1</sup> ]					
<b>PZT95/05<sup>^</sup></b>	495	12	8	480	0.0250	58
<b>PLZT8/65/35<sup>^</sup></b>	318	40	50	1200	0.0333	60
<b>PLZST<sup>^</sup></b>	305	3.8	-	80	0.0475	61
<b>SrBi<sub>2</sub>Ta<sub>2</sub>O<sub>9</sub><sup>^</sup></b>	565	4.9	2.4	600	0.0082	11
<b>PBZ<sup>^</sup></b>	290	45	47	598	0.0753	11
<b>PLZT2/95/05<sup>#</sup></b>	493	8.5	-	754	0.0113	62
<b>PLZST</b>	306	33	-	900	0.0366	63
<b>Hf<sub>0.2</sub>Zr<sub>0.8</sub>O<sub>2</sub></b>	307	13.4		3260	0.004	3, 4
<b>PZO<sup>#</sup></b>	508	7.7	-	514	0.0150	62
<b>PNZST<sup>^</sup></b>	323	5.5	-	139	0.0396	61
<b>BT<sup>#</sup></b>	353	7.1	-	800	0.0089	64
<b>BNT-0.1BT*</b>	323	-3.3	-	517	0.0064	65
<b>PMN-0.30PT*</b>	353	-0.15	-	10	0.0150	66
<b>BNT*</b>	298	-0.12	-0.0096	50	0.0024	67
<b>NBT*</b>	293	-1.6	-	70	0.0229	68
<b>PZO*</b>	310	-1.05	-	100	0.0105	69
<b>PLZT2/95/05*<sup>^</sup></b>	303	-5	-	308	0.0162	2
<b>PST*</b>	341	-6.2	-6.3	774	0.0080	1
<b>PZT/CFO-L9<sup>^</sup></b>	205	-25	-40.16	370	0.0675	Present work
<b>PZT/CFO-L5<sup>^</sup></b>	186	-30.41	-53.88	370	0.0821	Present work
<b>PZT/CFO-L3<sup>^</sup></b>	182	-52.2	-94.23	370	0.1411	Present work

\*Negative EC effect; <sup>#</sup>Thick Films; <sup>^</sup>Thin films; the negative sign indicates a negative electrocaloric effect.

**Table 2:** Comparison of energy density and corresponding conditions for selected compositions.

<b>Material</b>	<b>T<sub>Low</sub> (K)</b>	<b>T<sub>High</sub> (K)</b>	<b>E<sub>Low</sub> (MVm<sup>-1</sup>)</b>	<b>E<sub>High</sub> (MVm<sup>-1</sup>)</b>	<b>Energy Density (kJm<sup>-3</sup>cycle<sup>-1</sup>)</b>	<b>Reference</b>
<b>73/27 P(VDF–TrFE)^</b>	296	340	23	53	30	27
<b>PZN-4.5PT</b>	373	433	0	2.0	217	15
<b>PZN-5.5PT</b>	373	463	0	1.2	150	70
<b>PMN-10PT</b>	303	353	0	3.5	186	70
<b>PMN-32PT</b>	353	443	0	0.9	100	28
<b>60/40 P(VDF–TrFE)^</b>	331	350	4.1	47.2	52	14
<b>PNZST</b>	418	448	0.8	3.2	300	26
<b>8/65/35 PLZT<sup>#</sup></b>	298	433	0.2	7.5	888	40
<b>BNT–ST–BLT</b>	293	413	0.1	6	2130	35
<b>KNTM</b>	413	433	0.15	0.15	629	36
<b>BNLT</b>	298	393	0.1	11.2	1146	34
<b>BNKT</b>	298	383	0.1	5.2	1986	34
<b>BNK-BST</b>	293	433	0.1	4.0	1523	39
<b>PLZST (x=0.2) <sup>#</sup></b>	293	493	30	40	6800	63
<b>YBFO^</b>	15	300	0.1	4	7570	37
<b>PLZST (x=0.18)<sup>#</sup></b>	298	573	30	90	7800	71
<b>0.67PMN-0.33PT^</b>	303	323	0	60	6500	38
<b>0.68PMN-0.32PT^</b>	303	323	0	60	8000	38
<b>Hf<sub>0.2</sub>Zr<sub>0.8</sub>O<sub>2</sub></b>	273	423	0	326	11549	3, 4
<b>PZT/CFO-L9^</b>	100	300	0	40	23011	Present work
<b>PZT/CFO-L5^</b>	100	300	0	40	35278	Present work
<b>PZT/CFO-L3^</b>	100	300	0	40	47372	Present work

<sup>#</sup>Thick Films; ^Thin Films

## Figure Captions

Figure 1: Temperature dependant polarization versus electric field ( $P$ - $E$ ) behavior of (a) pure PZT thin films, (b) L3, (c) L5 and (d) L9 MLNs<sup>53, 54</sup>. Note the increase in polarization with an increase of temperature.

Figure 2: (a) Isothermal unipolar electric polarization versus electric field ( $P$ - $E$ ) hysteresis loops (b) temperature versus entropy ( $T$ - $S$ ) curves for electrical energy harvesting (A-B-C-D) using Olsen cycle operated between different temperatures  $T_L$  and  $T_H$ .

Figure 3: (a) Isothermal unipolar electric polarization versus electric field ( $P$ - $E$ ) hysteresis loops (b) temperature versus entropy ( $T$ - $S$ ) curves for a ferroelectric refrigeration cycle (A-B-C-D) operated between different temperatures  $T_L$  and  $T_H$ .

Figure 4: Schematic of refrigeration cycle based on reversed Olsen cycle. Note:  $P_B > P_A > P_C > P_D$ ;  $S_D > S_A > S_C > S_B$ .

Figure 5:  $P$ - $T$  plots for (a) L3, (b) L5 and (c) L5 corresponding to selected applied electric fields.

Figure 6: The variation in thermodynamic attributes (entropy ( $\Delta S$ ) and temperature ( $\Delta T$ ) change) with respect to temperature for selected applied electric fields (calculated using Maxwell relations). The negative values indicate a negative ECE.

Figure 7: (a) The comparison of energy densities for all three configurations as a function of  $E_H$  in the temperature domain of 100-300K; the variation of energy density as a function of  $E_H$  and  $T_H$  for (b) L3, (c) L5 and (d) L9 MLNs respectively.  $E_L$  is kept constant as  $0 \text{ kVcm}^{-1}$ .

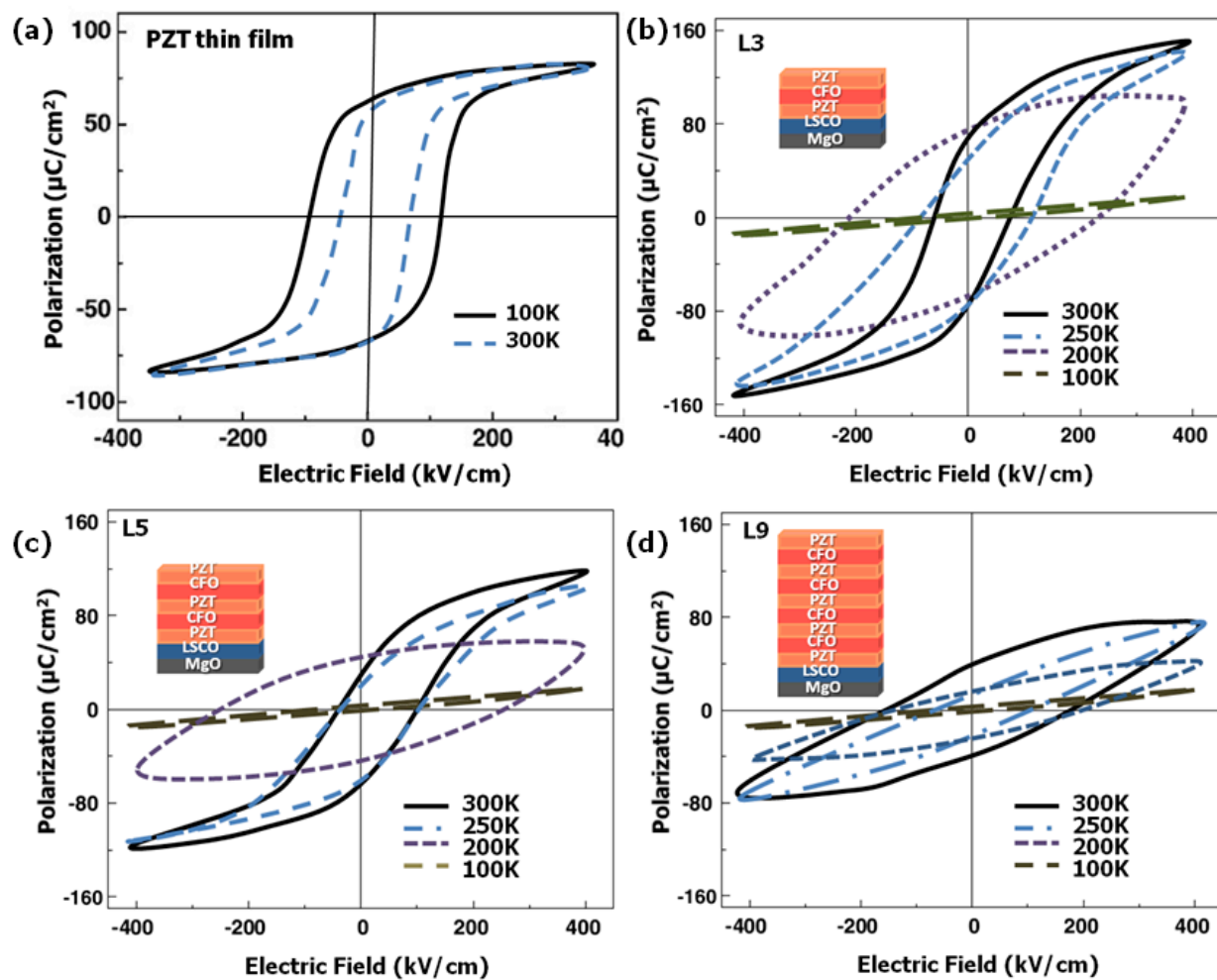


Figure 1

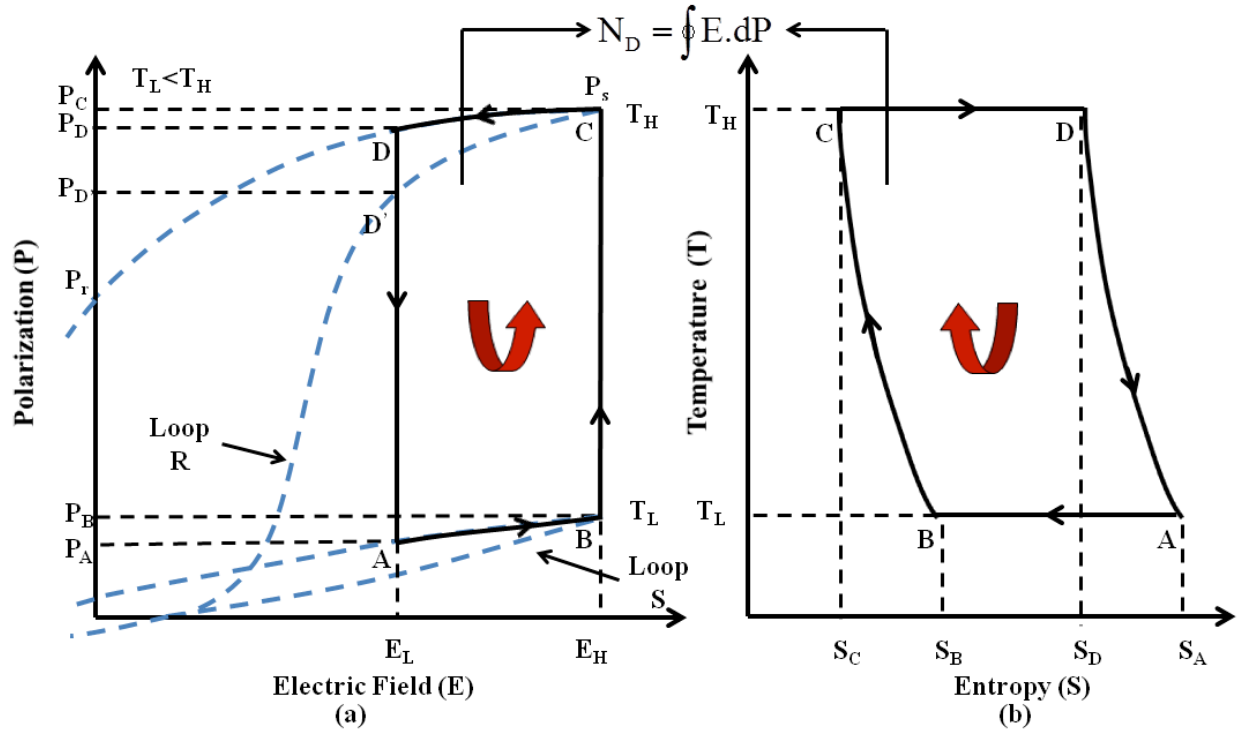


Figure 2

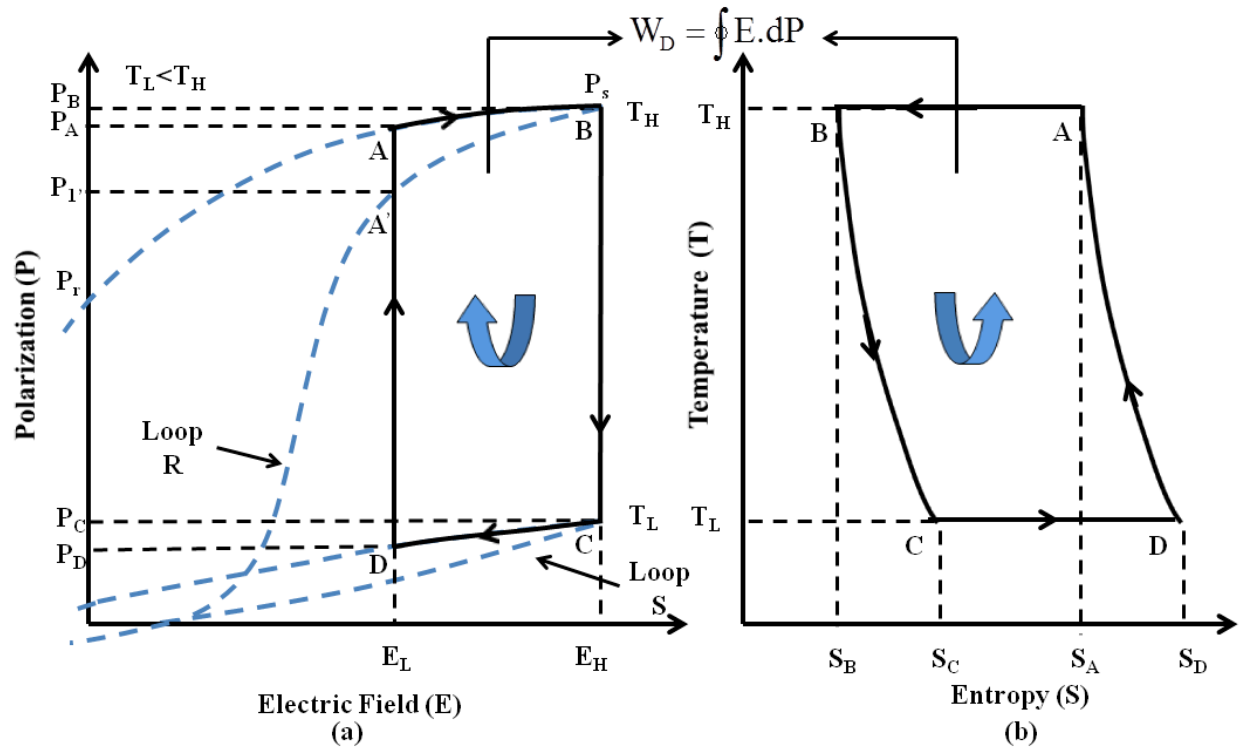


Figure 3

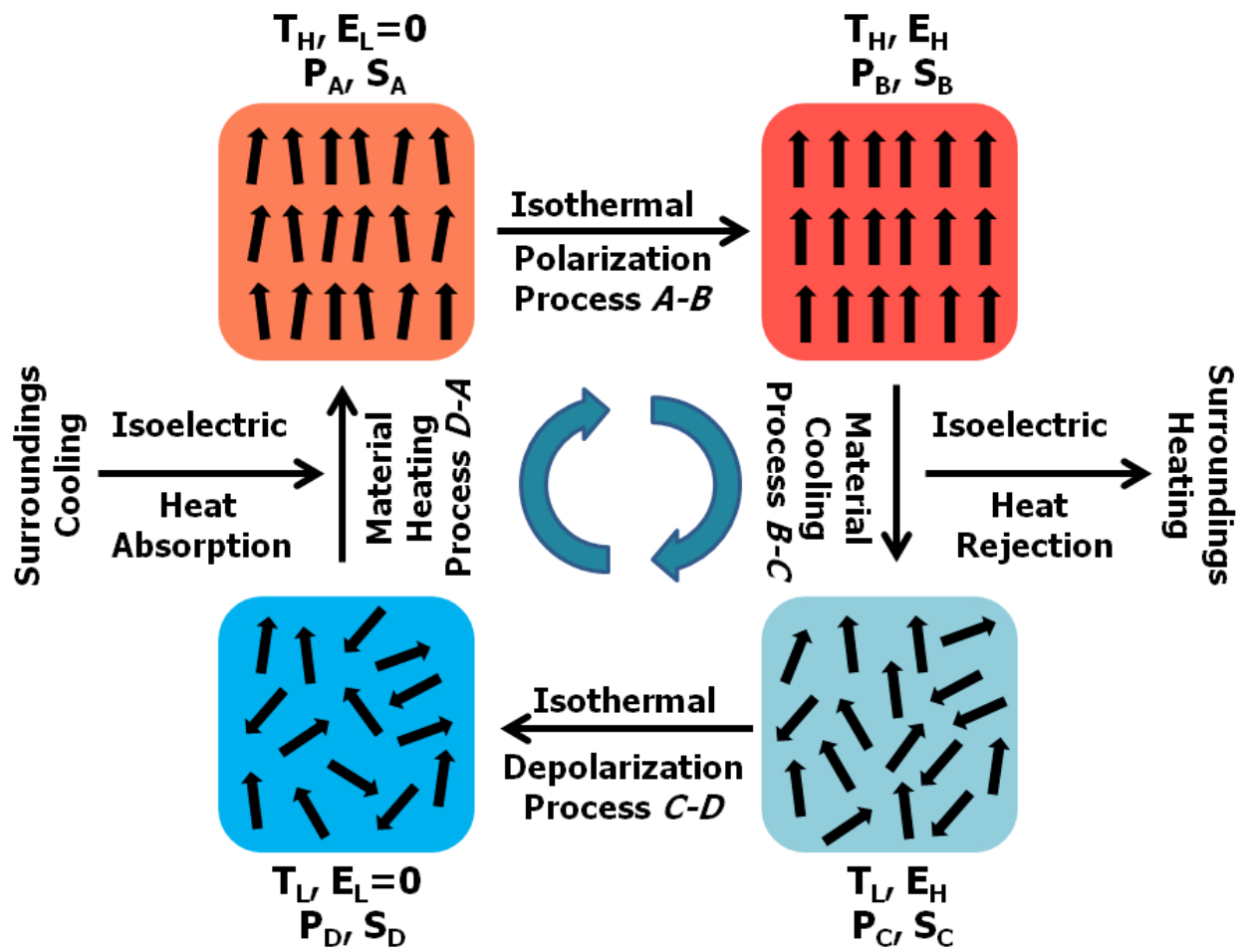


Figure 4



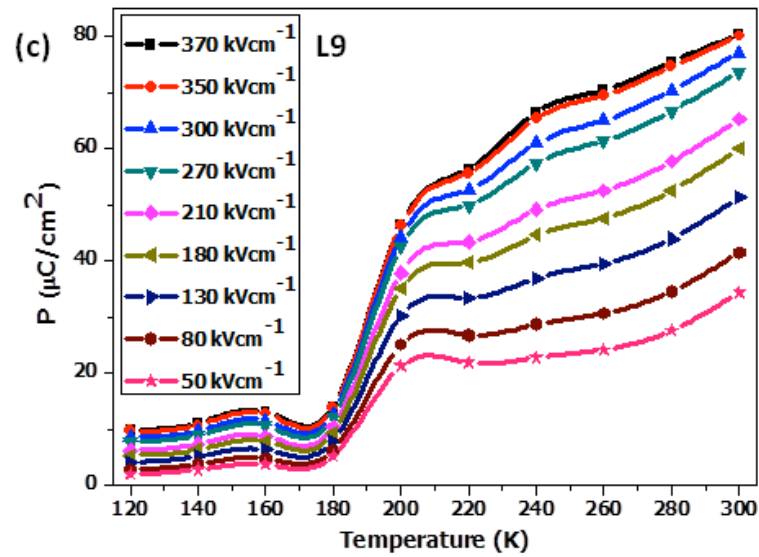
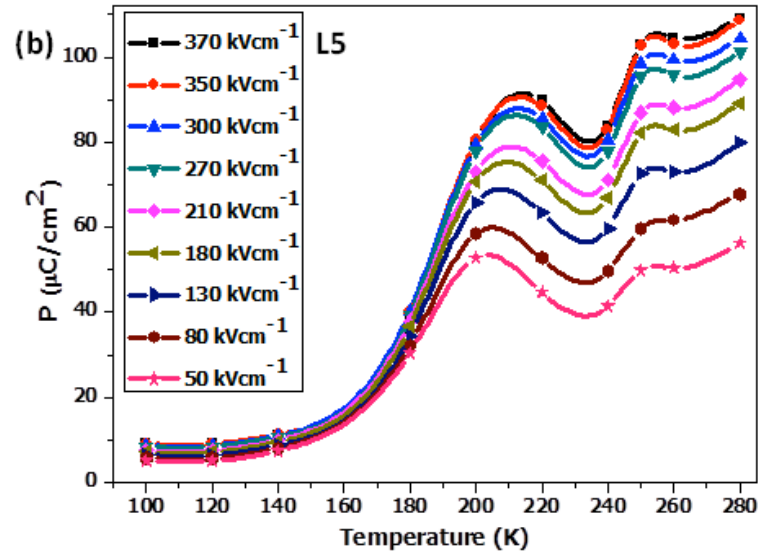
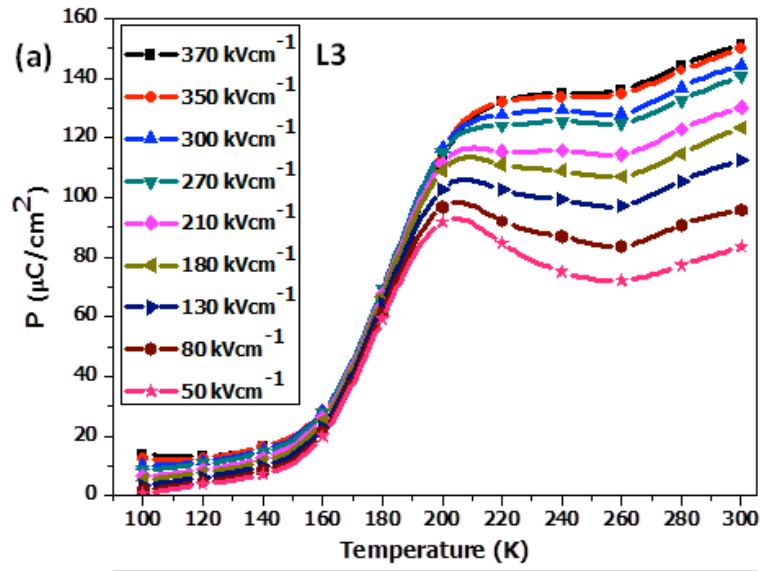


Figure 5

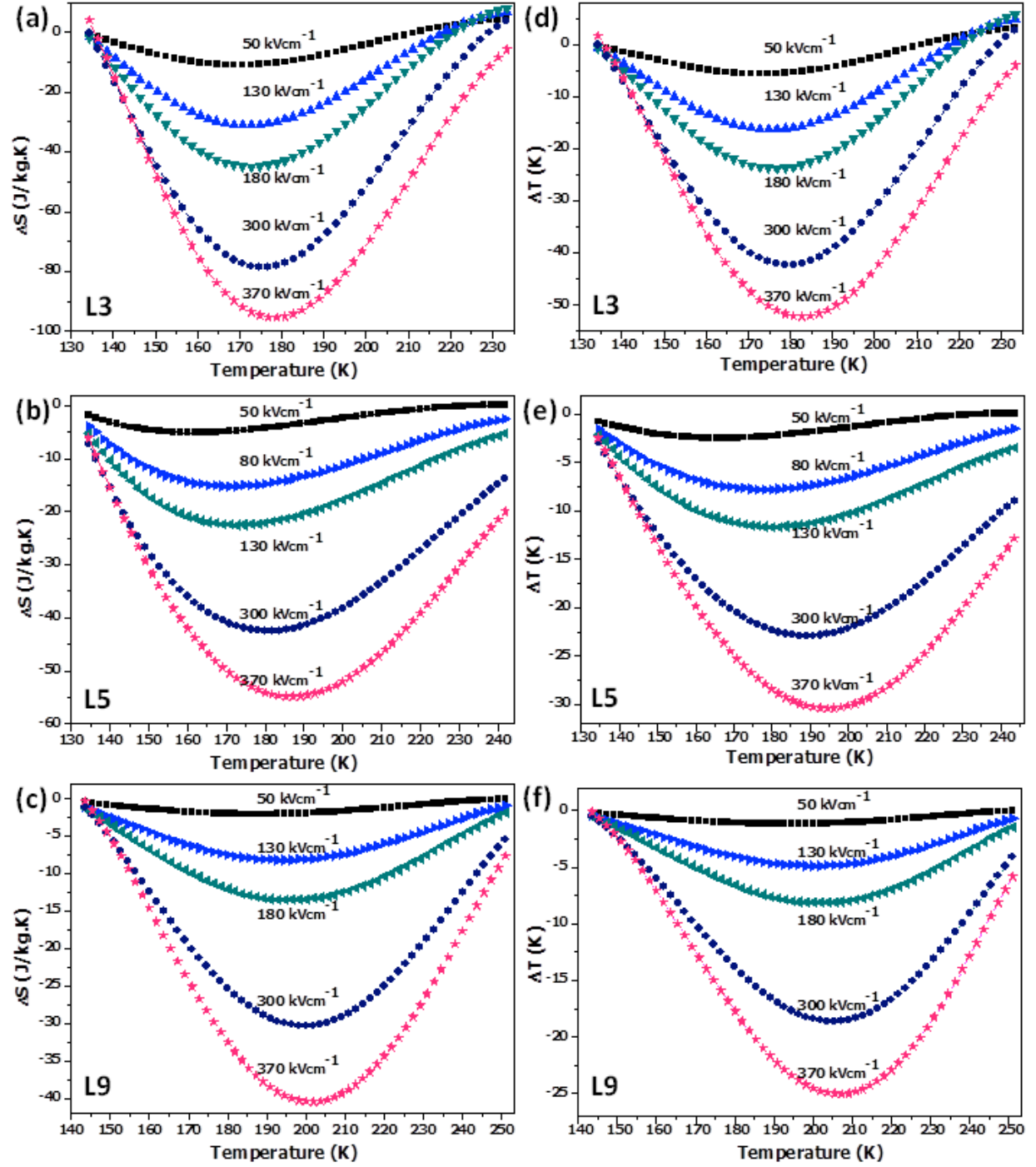


Figure 6

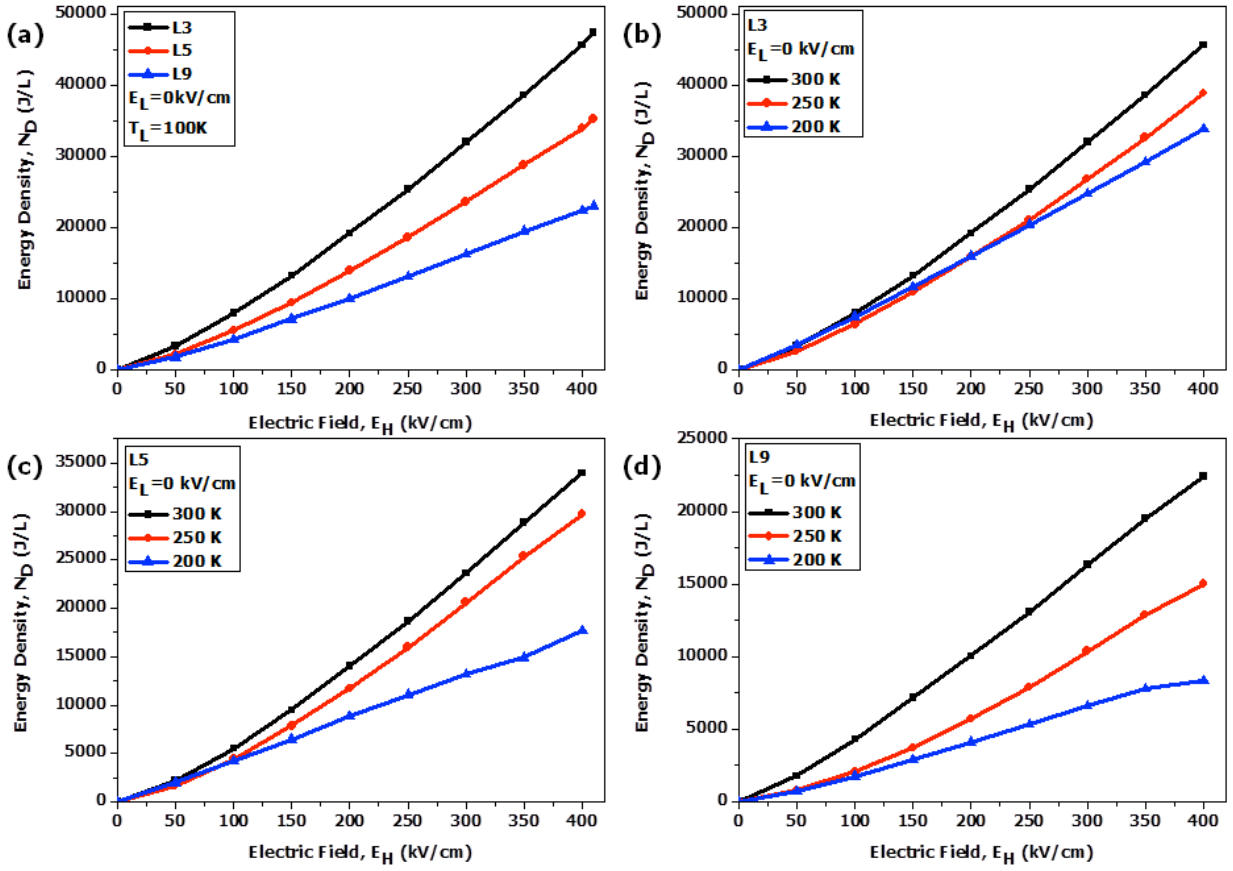


Figure 7